

2022 - 2023 NORTH AMERICAN PAIRS CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

(District 4 Supplement to the ACBL NAP Conditions of Contest)

The National Conditions of Contest for the North American Pairs are established by the ACBL. Copies of the ACBL Conditions have been posted on the ACBL website and mailed to those clubs and Unit coordinators requesting a copy. The ACBL Conditions cover such matters as Flight Eligibility, Club and Unit Level Participation, Conventions and Substitutes. Players entering the District Final of any flight must be members of District 4 and have qualified for that flight in a NAP club game.

Flight A: Open to any District 4 Player.

Flight B: Players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints as of the ACBL 2022 June masterpoint cycle (computer run on/about May 6, 2022).

Flight C: Players who are Non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 masterpoints as of the ACBL 2022 June masterpoint cycle.

Qualification at the Club level covers three months: June, July and August. To participate in the District finals in any Flight, players must have qualified at the Club level for that Flight or a higher Flight.

Special Qualification: In addition to qualification based on the national ACBL Conditions of Contest, when an insufficient number of pairs in any flight (fewer than five pairs) enter a scheduled qualifying event or if there are fewer than five total tables in the event, all players who pay their entry fee in that flight are qualified to the next stage of competition.

General:

All finals for all Flights are planned to be held face-to-face at participating District 4 Bridge Clubs, COVID considerations permitting. All face-to-face finals will be held in accordance with the ACBL's COVID protocols.

Flight A

The Flight A District final will be a two-day, four-session, qualifying event held on October 22-23, 2022, at a TBD¹ location.

The first two sessions in Flight A will be play-through on Saturday, with the number of pairs qualifying to play on Sunday based upon the number of entrants with the carry over to be determined in accordance with standard ACBL guidelines. The goal is to have the best movement for a two-session event that will also allow the greatest number of pairs to qualify for Sunday's two-session event.

The standings in Flight A will be based on the rankings achieved in the two session final. The top three pairs will be determined by the final results and will represent District 4 in the National final. In the event any of the top three pairs cannot attend the National final, the next lower pair(s) down the line will be offered the opportunity to play in the National final.

¹ To be determined: The participating D4 Clubs for the finals for all Flight will be confirmed once ACBL sanctions for the suggested dates are approved.

Open+ convention chart applies.

Preregistration and prepayment required.

Flight B

Flight B District finals will be a one-day, two-session event held at two split sites on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at locations TBD¹.

The Flight B final at each location will be a two session event. Both locations will use the same hands, with pre-duplicated boards. For a location to be considered a valid NAP event, there must be a minimum of five tables of Flight B qualified players at that location. If the ACBL directors at both sites can easily communicate with each other, there will be across-the-field matchpointing. In the event across-the-field matchpointing cannot be easily accommodated, then the field will be scored separately at each site with the scores determined by percentages.

The order of finish for purposes of advancing to the National Final is as follows:

A. Both sites have 12 or more full tables, OR both sites have fewer than 12 full tables:

1. First and second place will be awarded to the two pairs with highest percentage score regardless of site.
2. If the First and Second qualifiers are from the same site, then third place is awarded to the pair with the highest percentage score at the other site and fourth place is awarded to the pair with next higher percentage score regardless of site.
3. If the First and Second qualifiers are from different sites, then third and fourth place will be the two pairs with the next highest percentage score following first and second place, regardless of site.

B. One site has at least 12 full tables, and the other site has fewer than 12 full tables:

1. First place is the pair with the highest score from the larger site.
2. Second place is the pair with the highest score from the smaller site.
3. Third Place is the pair with the second highest score from the larger site.
4. Fourth place is the pair with next highest percentage score, regardless of site.

If any of the top four pairs are unable to represent the District at the National Finals, then the offer to represent the District will be made to the fifth, sixth, and seventh ranking pairs down the line until a replacement pair accepts. The ranking will be determined by the highest percentage scores of those pairs not placing first through fourth for the combined sites.

Basic+ Convention chart applies.

Preregistration and prepayment required.

Flight C

The 2022 District 4 Flight C Final will be held at several sites TBD¹ on Sunday, October 23, 2022, and will be conducted along the lines of a District STaC. Any entity, club or unit in District 4 may participate but must notify the District 4 NAP Coordinator at least 2 weeks in advance of their intention in order to receive appropriate sanctions.

The Flight C Final is a two-session event using pre-duplicated boards. Each site is scored separately and the score of each pair is converted to percentages for ranking purposes. The order of finish for purposes of advancing to the National Final is determined by the percentage score of each pair, regardless of site. There will not be across-the-field scoring.

The starting times of each session will be fixed within reasonable limits by the District 4 NAP Coordinator in order to accommodate the use of pre-duplicated hands at each location.

The District 4 winners will be the four pairs with the highest percentage scores regardless of the location at which they played. The coordinating Director will be an ACBL TD.

Each participating Club will be assessed a \$10.00 per table per session sanction fee (with \$7 going to the ACBL and \$3 going to District 4 to cover the cost of an ACBL Director).

In order to be considered a valid competition, there must be a minimum of five full tables in play in Flight C at that location. Fewer than five tables will not constitute a valid NAP event.

Basic Convention chart applies.

Preregistration with the club you desire to play in is required.

General

Players may play in the District finals of more than one flight if they are qualified to play in each flight they participate in. If a qualifying pair in the District final is unable to compete in the National ACBL finals, they will be replaced by the next highest finisher in their Flight. This process will repeat itself until the District has selected three qualified pairs in Flight A and four qualified pairs in Flights B and C. Ties which occur in any Flight at any location will be broken based upon criteria established by the ACBL.

Starting times at each location will be determined by the District 4 NAP Coordinator in consultation with the local chairperson to insure the conclusion of the event at an appropriate time. Starting times may not necessarily be the same as those set for the Sectional Tournament taking place at the location.

First-place District winners in each Flight will receive (from ACBL) \$700 per person subsidy to attend the 2023 Spring NABC Nationals in New Orleans, LA. Second-place pairs will receive \$300 per person subsidy. Third-place pairs are invited to participate in the national event and, although not receiving any subsidy from the ACBL, District 4 will compensate each third-place player \$200 and each fourth place player in Flights B and C \$100. Each person receiving the subsidy must attend and play in the NABC final event.

These subsidies are intended to reduce travel and lodging expenses in New Orleans and should the NAP finals be held online will not be distributed.

The ACBL will waive all entry fees for the NABC finals.

The ACBL NAP Finals will be held in conjunction with the Spring North American Bridge Championships (NABC) in New Orleans, LA on March 8-19, 2023. The four-session two-day ACBL NAP finals for Flight A (Baldwin NAP Flight A) are scheduled to be held on Wed-Thu, March 8-9, 2023, and the four-session two-day ACBL NAP Finals for Flights B (Golder NAP Flight B) and C (President's Cup NAP Flight C) are scheduled to be held on Sat-Sun, March 18-19, 2023. However, all District 4 qualifiers should check the NABC Tournament Schedule for the exact playing schedule for each Flight once the schedule is finalized.

District 4 NAP Coordinator: Bharat Rao, d4.napgnt@gmail.com, 484-753-2942